sections, feel economically and politically secure and free.

The way the various land reform measures have been implemented since independence, has hardly inspired the confidence of the rural poor. The continued existence of absentee landownership and large incidence of concealed tenancy and sharecropping has deprived the tillers of the soil the security guaranteed to them under the laws. While the objective of the land ceiling laws has been largely thwarted by the big landowners through benami transactions, various loopholes and concessions built into the ceiling laws have effectively reduced the availability of surplus lands for distribution to the landless poor. Even the allotment of the meagre surplus land to landless rural poor has been held up on account of perpetual litigation.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are handicapped because they lack awareness about their rights, do not have assertive organisations to take up their cause and lack the strength to stand upto the harassment of landowners This should be met by action required to conscientise them. They are unable even to make productive use of the land allotted to them because they do not have the resources to invest in it. Infrastructure building efforts like ground water irrigation should therefore form the core of our development strategy for these groups.

It is not difficult to identify the changes needed in the laws nor is it difficult to pinpoint the administrative arrangements required for protecting the interests and rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, what is of paramount importance is the political will and leadership required to make these rights a reality for these sections. This is entirely in your hands. Unless land reforms are effectively carried out and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections are enabled to participate in local administration on equal terms, our efforts to usher in genuine democratic decentralisation through devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj bodies would be meaningless.

A great deal, therefore, remains to be done. I seek your cooperation in achieving the goals we have set for ourselves in the matter of ensuring social and economic justice to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of our society. I shall be happy to hear from you on the issues of importance raised in this letter so that we may, together, look forward to certain concrete achievements in the immediate future.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Vishwanath Pratap Singh)

Development of small and medium towns in A.P.

524. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of towns in Andhra Pradesh which have been brought under the Integrated Development of small and medium towns programme during the Seventh Plan Period;

(b) what is the amount provided by the Central Government for the development of such towns during the same period; and

(c) what are the details of the development work done in these towns?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Nine towns in Andhra Pradesh namely, Ongle, Gudiwada, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Kavali, Yamiganur, Peddapuram, Khammam and Machilipattnam have been covered under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns during the 7th Plan Period. An amount of Rs. 275.23 lakhs have been released by

Government of India to these towns during this period.

(c) The following components of town development were covered in these towns:

(i) Site and services (Acquisition and development of residential areas).

(ii) Development/construction of shopping centres.

(iii) Construction of new roads.

(iv) Widening and improvement of roads.

World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh

525. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given by the World Bank for the drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise, and till date; and

(b) whether Government have finalised any proposal sent by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) No amount has been given by World Bank for rural drinking water supply projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

Villages without drinking water facilities in A.P.

526. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh without drinking water facility as on date; and

(b) whether any comprehensive scheme has been drawn up and is being implemented to provide drinking water to such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b) The number of identified problem villages is 'Nil' in Andhra Pradesh. It is proposed to augment water supply to 1000 Partially Covered villages in Andhra Pradesh during 1990-91 under the existing schemes. Against the allocation of Rs. 23.01 crore for 1990-91 to Andhra Pradesh under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, an amount of Rs. 11.50 crores had already been released.

Scheme of Railway Network in Andhra Pradesh during Seventh Five Year Plan

527. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of expansion of railway network in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the names of the railway lines in Andhra Pradesh alongwith their total length electrified during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES). (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan period 72 kms of new Railway line was laid in Andhra Pradesh as follows:—

Miryalguda-Nadikude	39 km
Motumari-Jaggayyapet	33 km

(b) Following sections in Andhra Pradesh were electrified during the Seventh Plan:—